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BOOK REVIEWS



IN CHARGE OF

M. E. CAMERON, R.N.

THE CORNER OF HARLEY STREET. Being Some Familiar Correspondence of Peter Harding, M.D. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York and Boston.

This book, which appears anonymously, is much in the style of the "Confessio Medici," which delighted its readers some two years ago. The present volume presented as a series of letters written by a London practitioner to others of his own profession—to old school and college friends, to his cousin, his sister, his aunt, and his own children, shows the many-sided character one may develop while apparently shackled and manacled by a tyrannous profession.

Nothing could be more delightful than the glimpses one gets of the writer as he puts himself in the place of his older son, who is making up his mind as to a vocation; of his younger son who has been through the rather tremendous experience of a religious revival; of a daughter who is choosing a husband; of a younger daughter who is at the "Henty" age and still goes wading with her clothes round her waist, and sleeps with the photograph of her *matinée* idol under her pillow—an idol, alas, who turns out to be married, middle-aged and fat! The letters to a sister who minds little girls in an orphanage seem to recognize in her a part of himself, as he meanders on through speculation or reflection, absolutely sure that she will understand, probably work out the problem for him. To his aunt, Miss Josephine Summers, he writes with a gentle irony which one is certain the dear old lady never discovers—and so she continually adds to her own importance by quoting her dear nephew in Harley Street who sanctions the wearing of a ring for rheumatism and gravely advises concerning the respective values of soured milk and patent pills. To the proprietor of a popular journal he writes protesting against the tendency of the press to cater to the lowest and most brutal in the reading public. To a clergyman cousin he points out the inadequacy of the church, as it exists, to reach the masses—"I have been watching them all the morning plying their oars upon the Thames—

strong and ruddy keen-faced artisans from Reading, actresses from town, barristers, doctors, men of leisure and men of affairs, and now as I write they are plying still, while across the fields comes the ineffectual call of the various ecclesiastical bells. By some they are not even heard. To others they are just decorative in the region of river sounds as the loose strife and charlock in that of its color." But our M.D. is the gentlest of critics and though he deplores the ever-widening distance between the church and the people, we find him later writing hopefully to this same cousin with the intent to heal the wounds he may have made. In one of the letters to his sister he describes a pilgrimage to Lourdes, which he attended in his medical capacity. The outsiders' point of view is his, of course, yet there is little that escapes him and his description is one of the best chapters in the book.

In nearly all the letters his wife appears as the wise mentor who points out just the small and detached fact that is in every instance necessary to complete the subject under consideration. One is convinced that Peter Hardy would be but a left-handed and generally all-round-poor thing if his wife were not by to keep him up to the mark.

ELEMENTARY MATERIA MEDICA FOR PUPIL NURSES. By F. W. Scott, Jr., Ph.G., Instructor in *Materia Medica*, Long Island State Hospital Training School for Nurses, Brooklyn, N. Y. Price, \$1. Published and sold by the author.

This book in its first edition was reviewed in these pages a year ago. It has apparently met with appreciation, since its second edition appears after so short a time. The present volume, retaining its early form and the same arrangement, has been added to in several departments with a view to making the book available as a ready reference for those in active practice as well as fill its place as a hand-book for teachers and pupils for whom it was originally written. The new matter includes equivalents for apothecaries' tables in the metric system; table for preparing carbolic solutions; emetics and their preparation; poisons and antidotes, etc.